



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

July 9, 2008

The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa, President
and Members of the Senate
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Madam President and Members of the Senate:

Re: House Bill No. 2519 HD2 SD2 CD1

On July 8, 2008, House Bill No. 2519, entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to Health Care" became law without my signature, pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the State Constitution.

The purpose of this bill is to create a working group to develop a plan to establish the Hawaii Health Corps Program to address physician and dentist shortages in the State.

The intent of this bill has merit and sets forth a specific set of programs to retain qualified medical professionals in Hawaii, especially those willing to work in the underserved areas of our state.

This bill raises concerns because it proposes the development of incentives that the State currently does not have the funds to support. Should the program envisioned by this bill be enacted, it would be difficult at the present time to identify a sustainable source of funding to support it for the foreseeable future.

It is hoped that the working group established in this bill will focus on private sector local and national sources of financial assistance to provide stipends, scholarships, and loan repayment programs to eligible medical and dental students.

For the foregoing reasons, I allowed House Bill No. 2519 to become law as Act 242, effective July 8, 2008, without my signature.

Sincerely,

LINDA LINGLE